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**M E M O R A N D U M**

November 10, 2015

**TO:** Members of the Legislative Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Committee

**FROM:** Damion Pechota, Research Analyst, 303-866-4789  
Matt Becker, Research Analyst, 303-866-4785

**SUBJECT:** Overview of the Legislative Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Committee

**Summary**

This memorandum provides an overview of the Legislative Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Committee (committee) for the 2015 interim. Specifically, the memorandum provides the following information:

- charge of the committee;
- committee membership;
- committee staff and website;
- the number of approved meeting dates and bill recommendations; and
- a summary of 2015 legislation regarding emergency preparedness.

**Committee Charge**

The Legislative Emergency Epidemic Response Committee was established by Senate Bill 07-229 in Sections 2-3-1501 through 2-3-1503, C.R.S., in response to concerns about epidemic emergencies. House Bill 10-1080 amended Section 2-3-1503, C.R.S., to expand the scope of the committee to include disaster preparation and to authorize the committee to recommend legislation. In addition, the bill changed the title of the committee to the Legislative Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Committee. The committee is required to develop a plan for the response by, and the continuation of operations of, the General Assembly and the legislative branch in the event of an emergency epidemic or disaster. That plan is now known as the Legislative Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

In addition to its statutory charge, the committee is authorized to convene, in the event of an emergency epidemic or Governor-declared disaster emergency, as rapidly and as often as necessary to advise the Speaker, the President, and the legislative service agencies regarding reasonable and appropriate measures to be taken by the General Assembly and the legislative service agencies to respond to and recover from the emergency epidemic or disaster and to protect public health.

The committee is also required to communicate with, cooperate with, and seek advice from the Governor's Disaster Emergency Council, the Department of Public Health and Environment, the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee, and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety.

### **Committee Membership**

The 11-member committee is comprised of 2 members of the Senate, 2 members of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the House, and 5 members representing legislative staff agencies. In 2015, the committee is comprised of the following individuals:

- Senator Kent Lambert
- Senator Linda Newell
- Representative Lori Saine
- Representative Faith Winter
- Mr. Matt Devlin, Deputy State Auditor, Office of the State Auditor
- Ms. Marilyn Eddins, Chief Clerk of the House
- Ms. Debbie Haskins, Assistant Director, Office of Legislative Legal Services
- Mr. Todd Herreid, Fiscal Director, Legislative Council Staff
- Mr. Manish Jani, Senior IT Manager, Legislative Council Staff
- Mr. John McKay, Acting Secretary of the Senate
- Mr. John Ziegler, Director, Joint Budget Committee

### **Committee Staff and Website**

Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please contact any of the following staff:

- Damion Pechota, Research Analyst, [damion.pechota@state.co.us](mailto:damion.pechota@state.co.us), 303-866-4789
- Matt Becker, Research Analyst, [matt.becker@state.co.us](mailto:matt.becker@state.co.us), 303-866-4785

You may also visit the committee website at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/legislative-emergency-preparedness-response-and-recovery-committee>

### **Committee Meeting Dates**

The committee is required to meet once annually, and is limited to six meetings total. The dates and locations of future meetings will be announced at a later date.

## 2015 Legislation Impacting Emergency Preparedness

In 2015, two bills concerning the emergency preparedness and management for state officials were passed by the General Assembly.

**Senate Bill 15-220.** The bill requires the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to:

- provide protection for state legislators when they are present in the "State Capitol Buildings Group" bounded on the north by 16th Avenue, on the west by Broadway, on the south by 11th Avenue, and on the east by Grant Street;
- respond to all complaints relating to criminal activity or security threats against a legislator;
- provide adequate law enforcement services for the buildings, grounds, and other facilities in which the General Assembly has designated space, including, but not limited to, the State Capitol Building, the Legislative Services Building, and the State Office Building at 1525 Sherman Street; and
- coordinate law enforcement efforts, when appropriate, with local law enforcement agencies and with the security officers of each house of the General Assembly.

In addition, the CSP may render other protection and security services as requested by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. The CSP may also provide these services, with appropriate coordination with local law enforcement, for any state function that any member of the General Assembly attends in an official capacity. Factors to be considered in determining the need to provide services include: event location, estimated threat level, and staffing requirements.

**Senate Bill 15-248.** The bill repeals the State Facility Security Fund. Since the fund's creation, there has been no deposit of moneys into the fund and no grants have been made. In addition, the bill maintains that state departments and agencies are required to comply with building security rules that require funding only if funds are available.